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Extra Activities Inside!

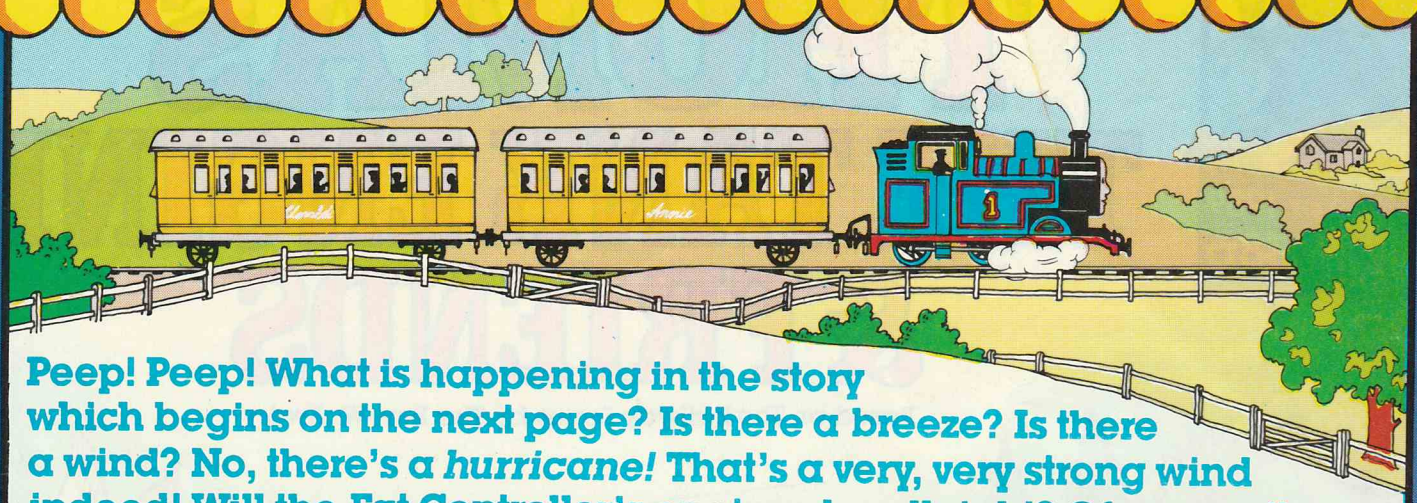
15th Apr. 1989
No. 39 38p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

It's Springtime!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! What is happening in the story which begins on the next page? Is there a breeze? Is there a wind? No, there's a *hurricane!* That's a very, very strong wind indeed! Will the Fat Controller's engines be all right? Of course they will – but read our two windy stories just to make sure! Peep! Peep!

A YEAR'S SUPPLY!

Take out a subscription to **Thomas The Tank Engine & Friends** and every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a very splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the Thomas Club too! Turn to page 7 for more details.

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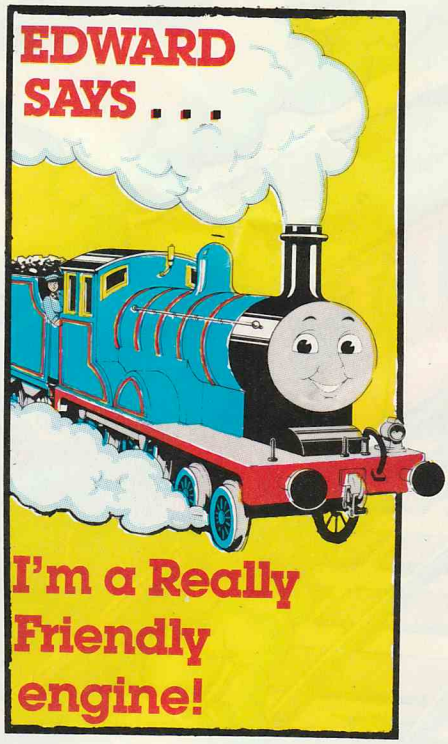

JOIN UP!

If you'd like to join **Thomas's Club** without taking out a year's subscription, here's another way: Collect **3** tokens like the one below. Send one **yellow**, one **red** and one **green** one, together with a stamped, addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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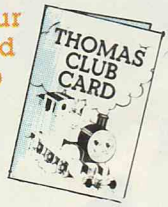

In our next issue: Don't miss Diesel's race! And there's an exciting competition for you to enter too! Splendid prizes to be won!

THOMAS TOKEN

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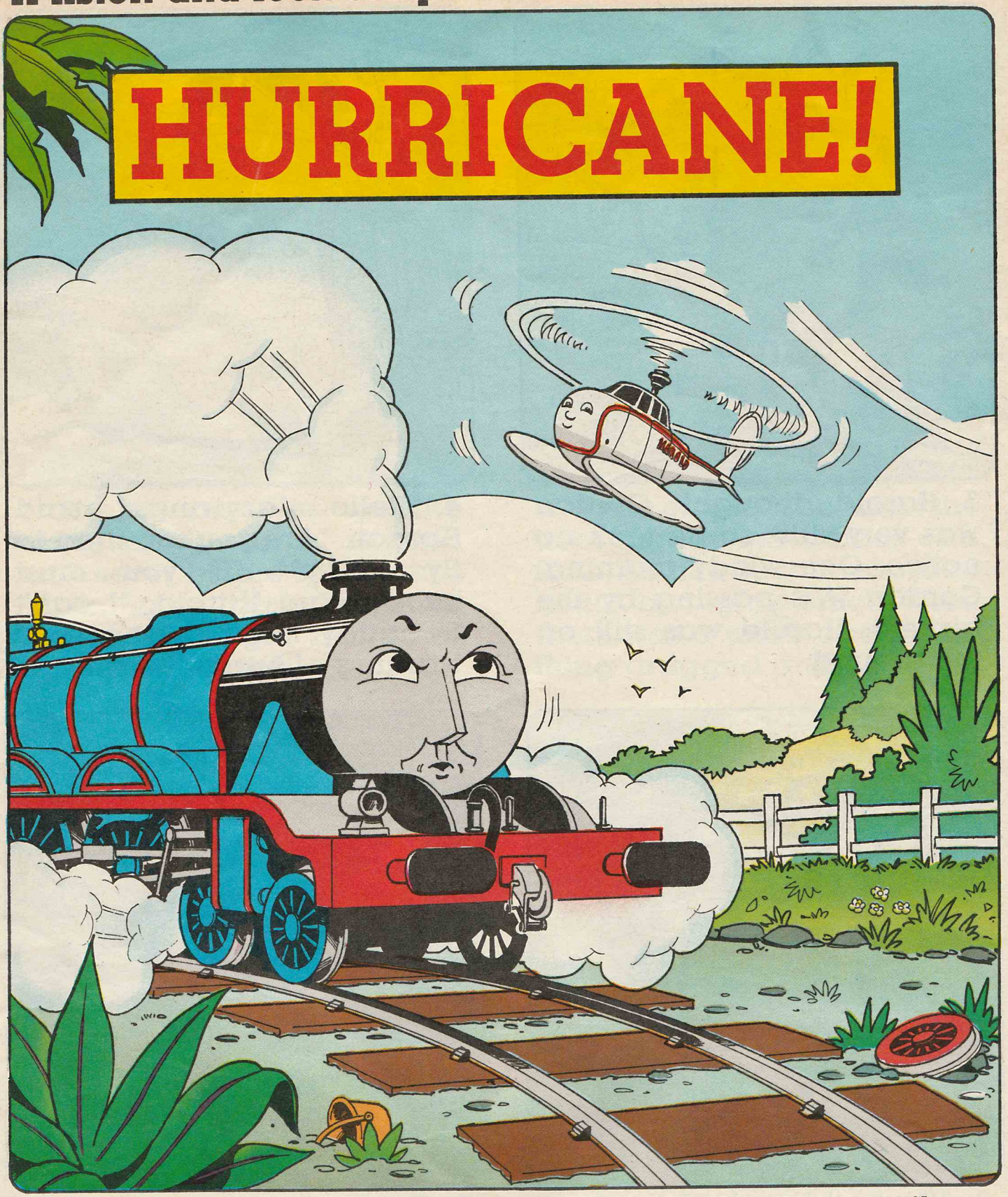
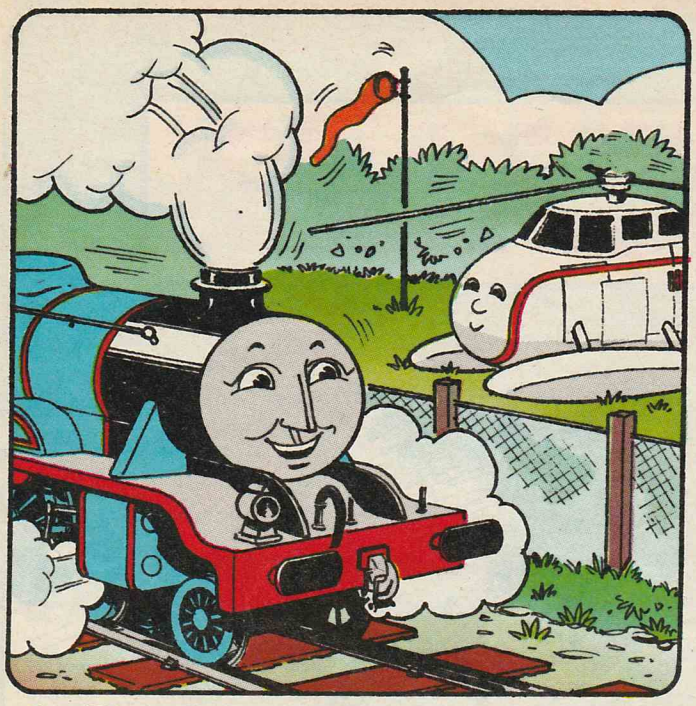
ABC

A listen and look story!

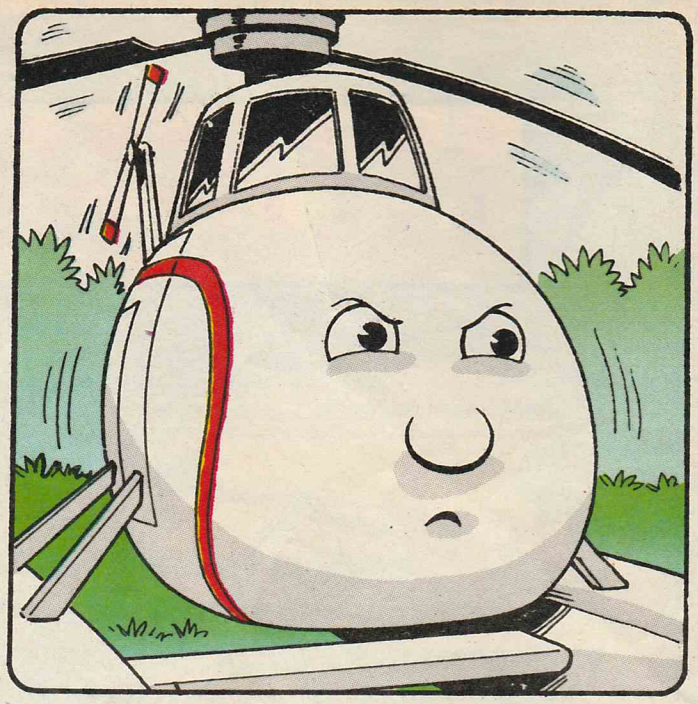


1. Gordon had taken a strong dislike to Harold the Helicopter. Whenever he heard him coming or going he would complain, "He is such a noisy-fangled thing."

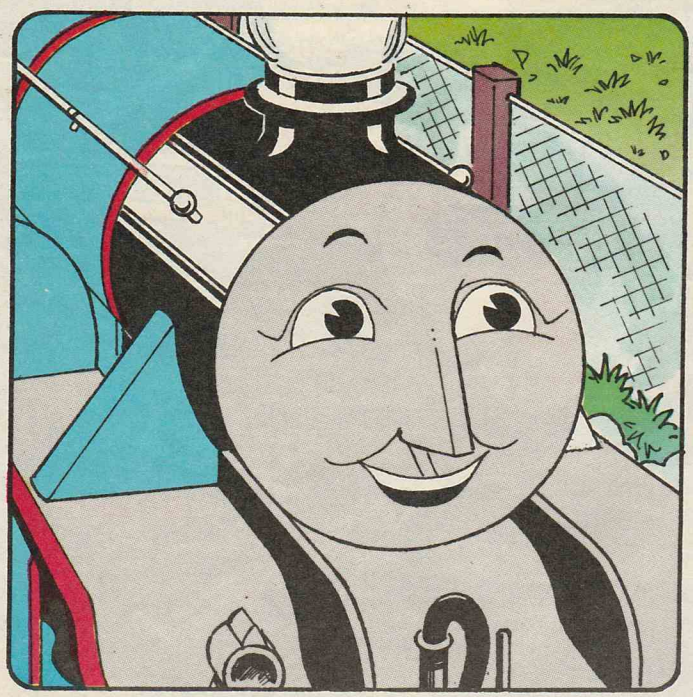
2. If ever Harold was there when Gordon passed the air-field, Gordon would make rude remarks. He liked to call Harold names like "bird brain" and "dizzy top"!



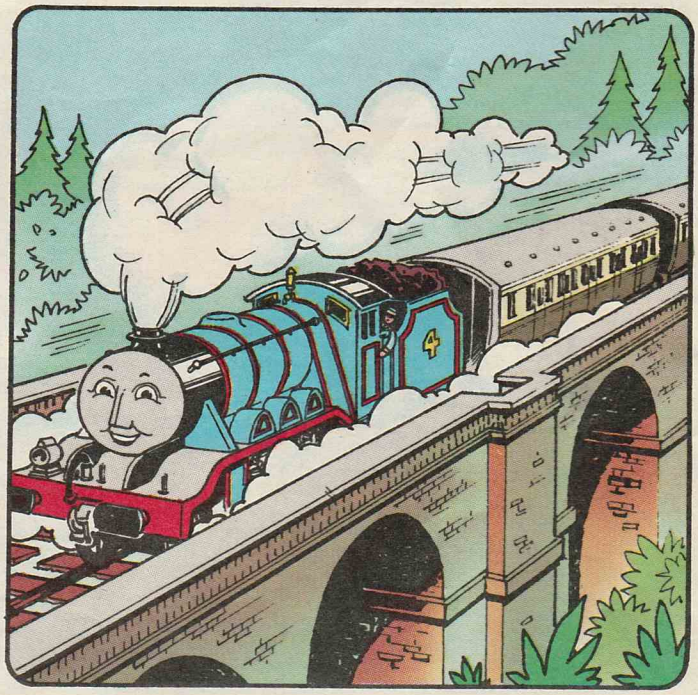
3. Harold thought Gordon was very silly, so he took no notice. One windy morning, Gordon was passing by the airfield. Harold was still on the ground.



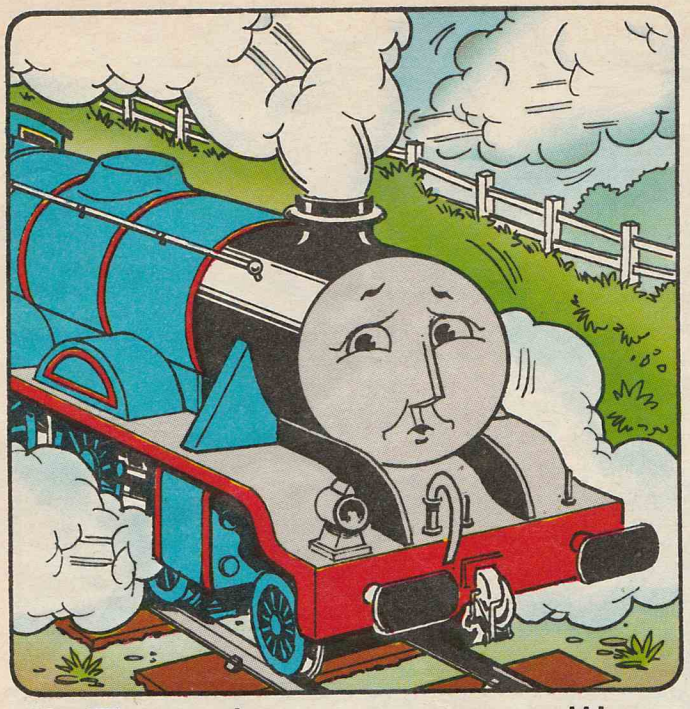
4. "Hello, lazywings," said Gordon. "Are you too tired to fly today?" "If you must know," said Harold, "I can't fly today because there's a warning of **hurricane winds**!"



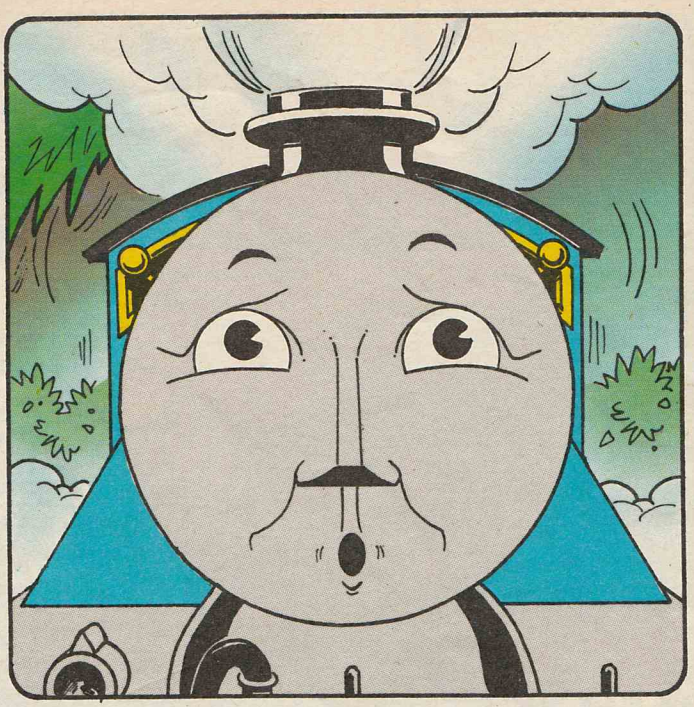
5. "Ha ha!" laughed Gordon. "What useless things helicopters are! A little bit of a windy day and they have to stay at home!" Harold was cross, but he said nothing.



6. Gordon chuckled as he steamed away. He collected the express and set off. The wind was blustery as he went over the viaduct. It gusted hard against his sides.

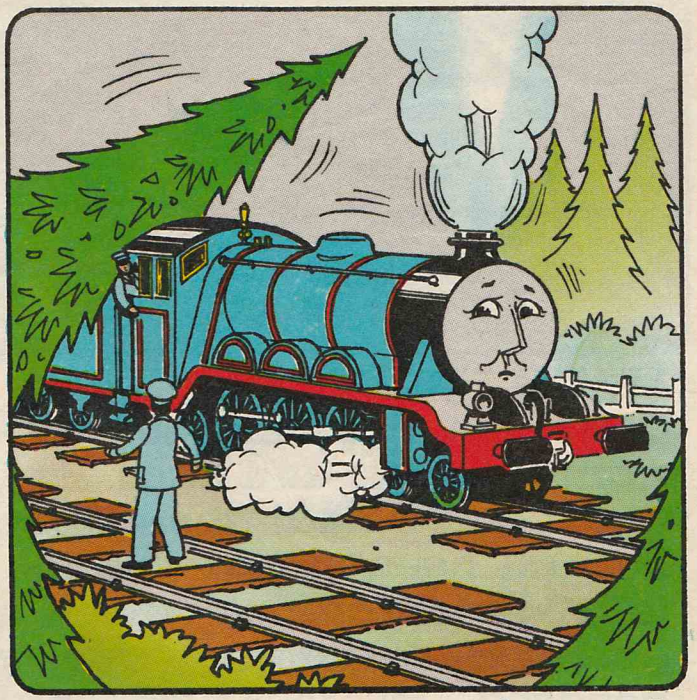


7. The storm was getting worse all the time. Gordon had never before seen winds as strong as these. He felt as though he might be blown right off the track!

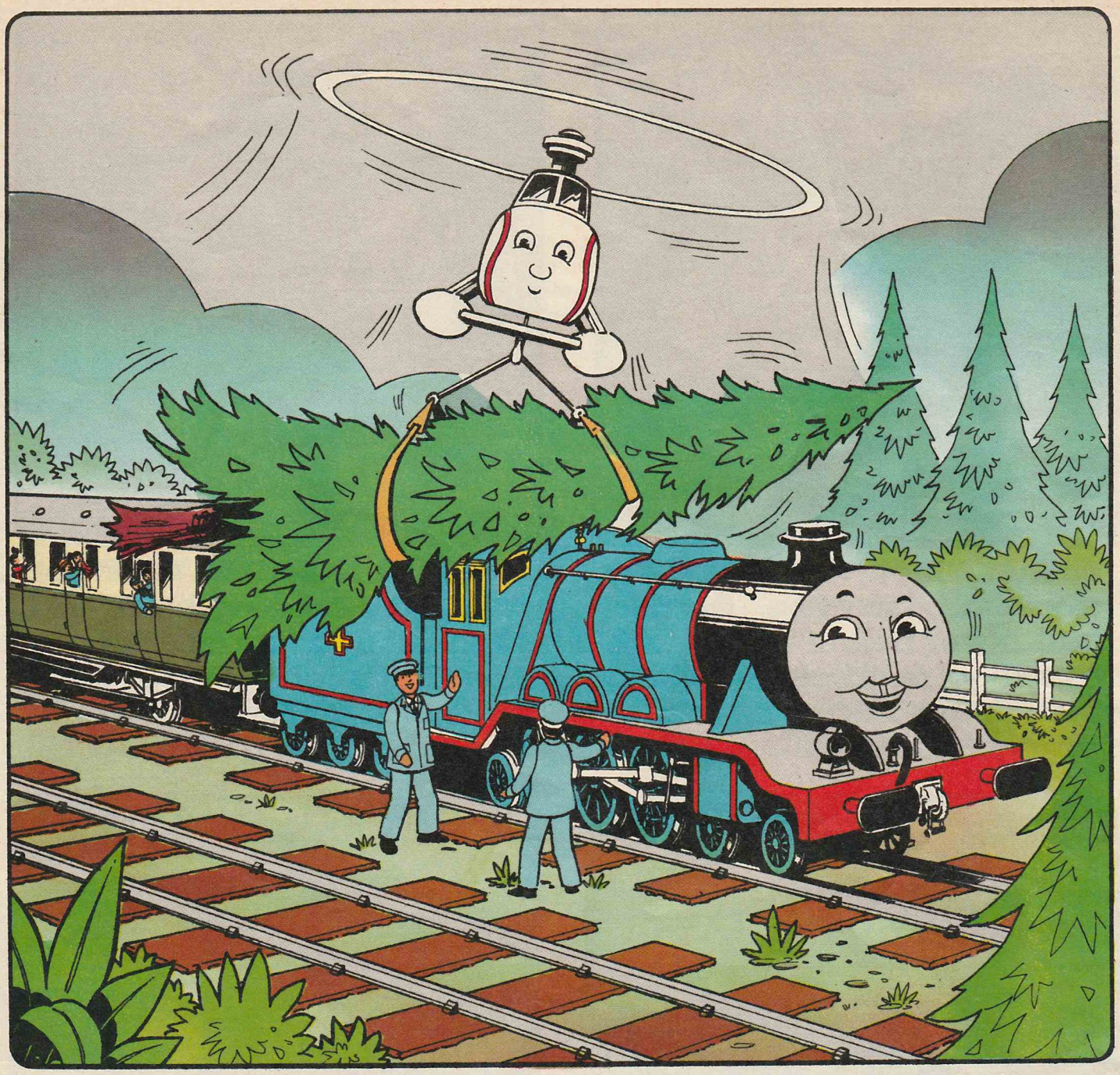


8. As he entered the forest the trees were swaying back and forth. All of a sudden, Gordon heard a mighty **crack**! Then there was a **crash** and something dragged at him.

9. "Ease up there, Gordon!" shouted his driver, shutting off steam. Gordon came to a screeching halt. A huge tree had fallen on to the back of his tender.



10. The guard came forward to see what had happened. Gordon's driver was rather shaken. The tree was far too big to move, so Gordon was stuck in the forest.



11. The guard went back down the line and set up warning lights and flags. He didn't know that the lines had all been closed due to fallen trees. Gordon's passengers were surprisingly well behaved as they waited. They sang songs to pass the time. Slowly the storm began to clear. Gordon heard a familiar sound.

12. It was Harold the Helicopter! He had come to find Gordon. The passengers all cheered. Gordon didn't tease Harold. He was glad to see him too. The men tied a big belt round the tree and Harold lifted it up. "Thank you," said Gordon. "That's all right," said Harold. He knew he and Gordon would be friends from now on.

The trees are cleared – on page 17!

THE END

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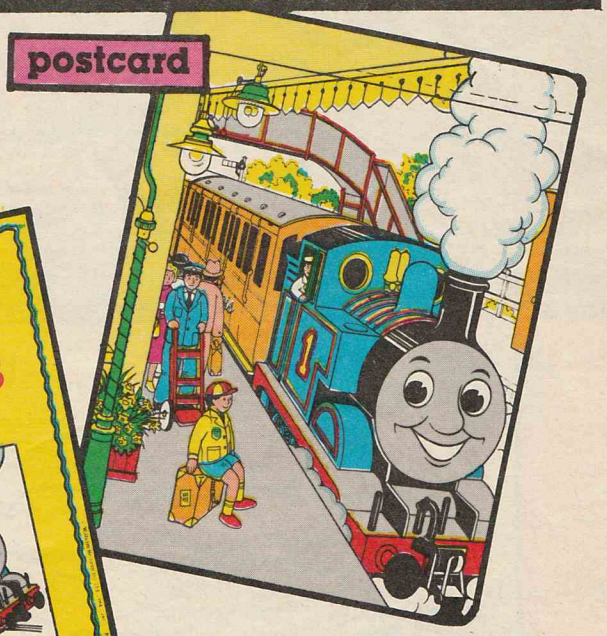

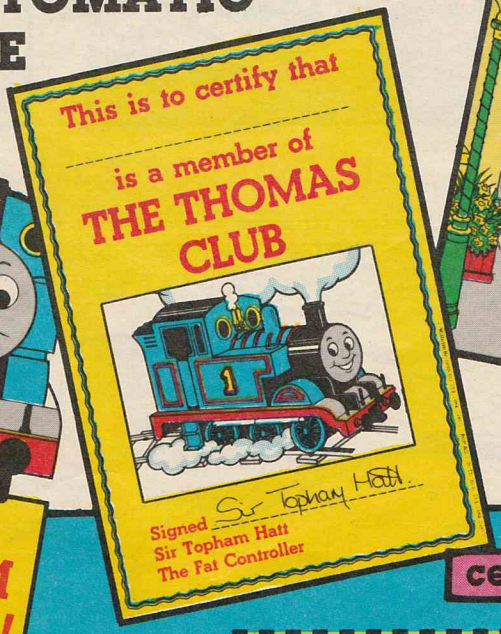

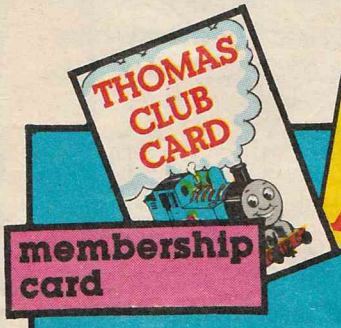

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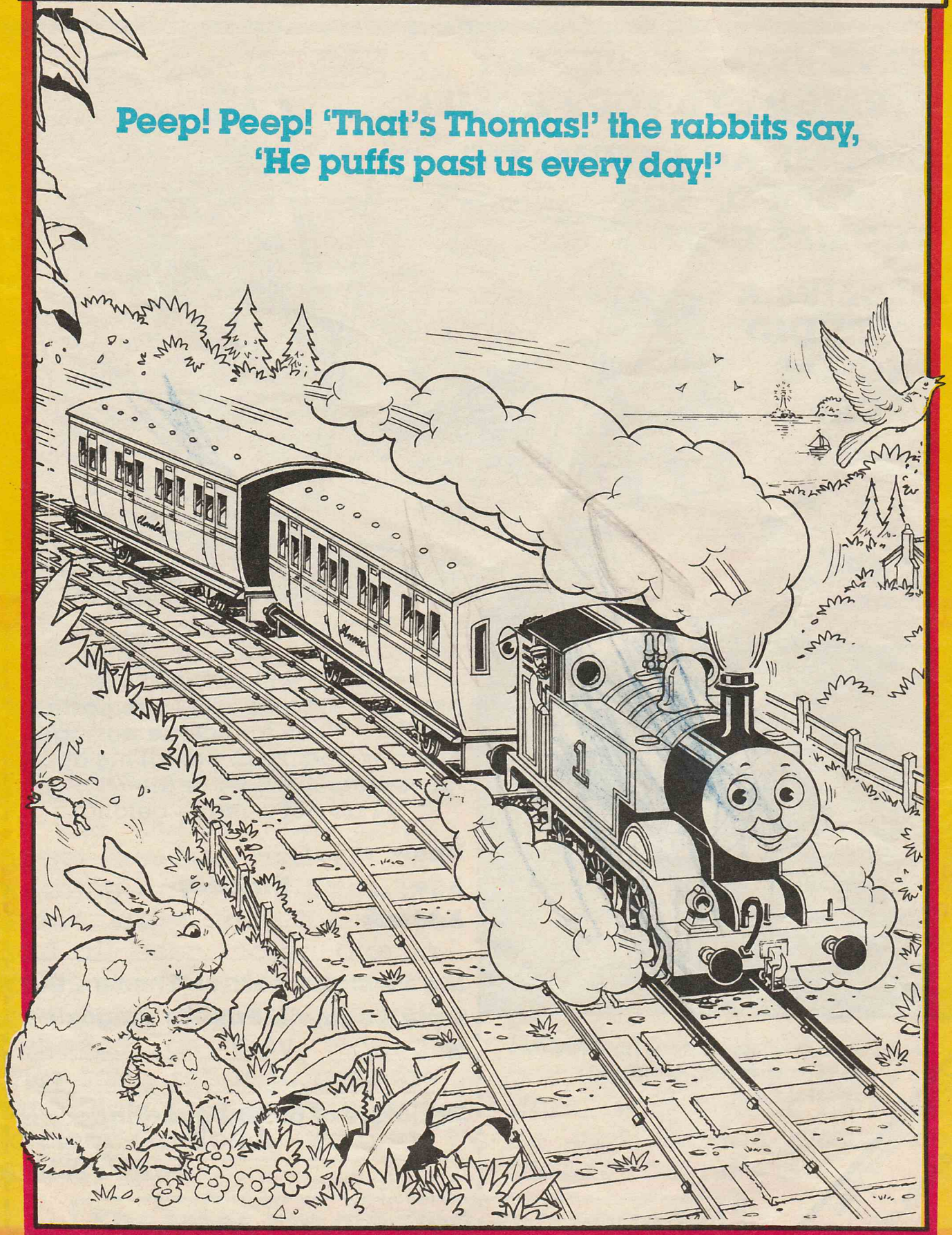
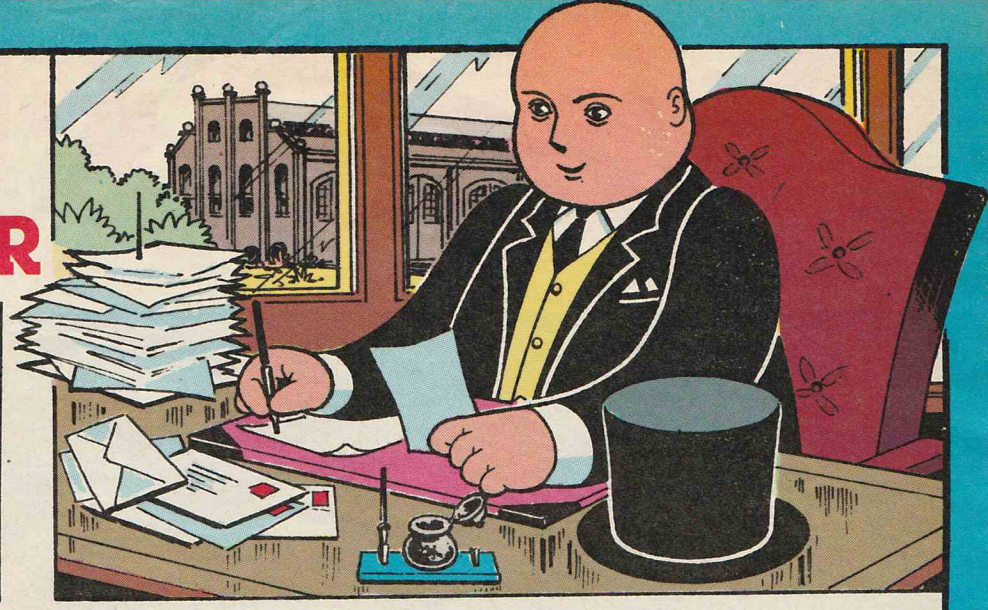
COLOURING TIME!

Peep! Peep! 'That's Thomas!' the rabbits say,
'He puffs past us every day!'



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

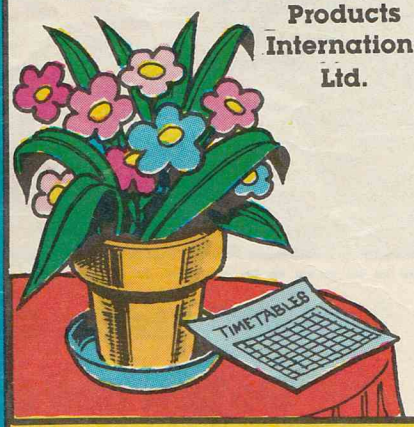
Dear Fat Controller,

Mummy and I were coming back from a long walk when we came to a big hill. We were tired and we didn't know how we were going to get to the top. So I said you be Gordon because of your blue wellies and I'll be James because of my red coat, red dress and red tights. We puffed up the hill saying, 'We did it together! We did it together!'

Love, **Harriet,** aged 4.
(No.0657)

Well done! I am so glad you got to the top!

Hannah wins a set of Thomas vinyl stickers, from Scorpio Products International Ltd.



WATCH THE BIRDIE!

Dear Fat Controller,

My school are watching the birds. I like the robin best.

From **Euan,** aged 7.

The robin is one of my favourites too – but I also like to watch the sparrows when they splash in the gutter above the engine shed. It is most amusing.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

Dear Fat Controller,

Why do trains have to have numbers? Like James – he is number 5. And why are you always dressed in black?

From **James.**

All engines have numbers so that they can be classified as they are manufactured. They are all made in different places you know. It also helps my men to recognise them. As for your second question, I do try to look quite smart and I think a black suit is a good idea, although I do have some very splendid yellow waistcoats, you know.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best wishes go to:

Paul Smith (3405), Michelle Nicholson, Gavin Hindler (21617), Oliver Thomas (08738), James Overy (19208), Michael Bailey, Trevor Gascoigne (21523), James Barnes, Simon Beal, Christopher Mackonochie (1648), Christopher Ramsay, Jessica Tomlin, Jack Holloway and Jamie, Christopher Watson, Jonathan Wilkinson, Simon Sutcliffe, Phillip Woods, Graeme Noble, Gareth Taylor (0299), Stephen Cripps (17546), Peter Simmons (10334), Sarah O'Dell, Nicholas Farrow, Thomas Gittings, Robert Wiltshire, Gemma Boileau, Philip Tattersall and his 3 gerbils, Liam Pontifex, Richard Inward, Kitt Garner, Matthew Lambourne (18668), Richard Poore, Craig Tomkinson, Andrew Maclean (075), Thomas Manford (3477), Christopher Higgins, Daniel Smith, Gareth Earl, Douglas Maudsley.

Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a mention here, just send details on a **postcard** please, at least 9 weeks in advance!

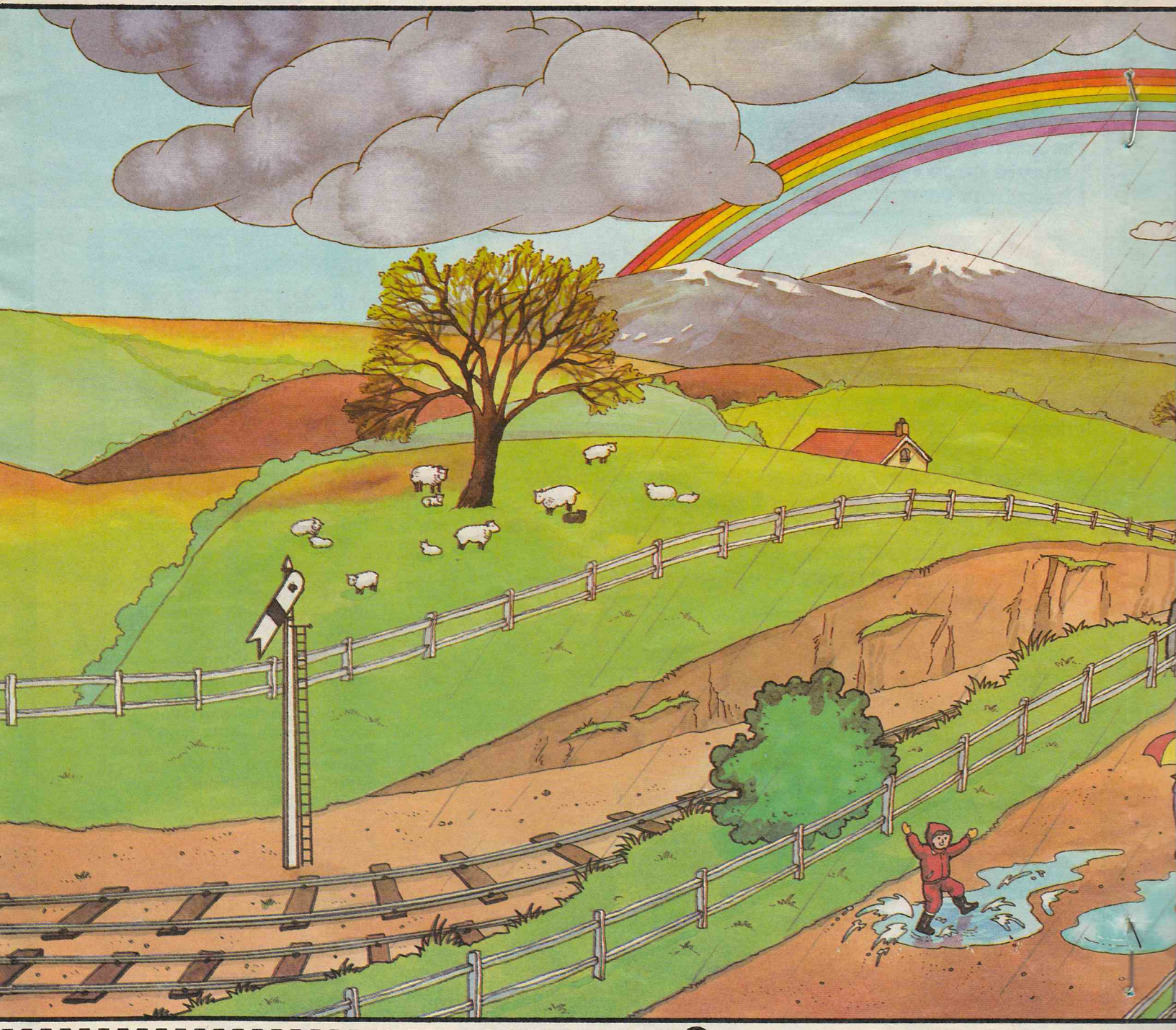
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

April showe



Who has just gone under the bridge?

What number is he?

How many colours are in the rainbow?

What are they?

What is the little b

Do you like doing

How many umbre

Find three ducks!

ver!

little boy in red doing?

doing that too?

umbrellas can you see?

lucks!

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Past the warehouses!

How do you know that carrots are good for your eyesight?
Because you never see rabbits wearing glasses!
Hilary, aged 7.

Why did the banana split?
Because it saw the apple turnover!
Robert, aged 6.

What is the difference between a teacher and an engine driver?
One trains the mind and the other minds the train!
Peter.

JAMES'S JOKE GALLERY!

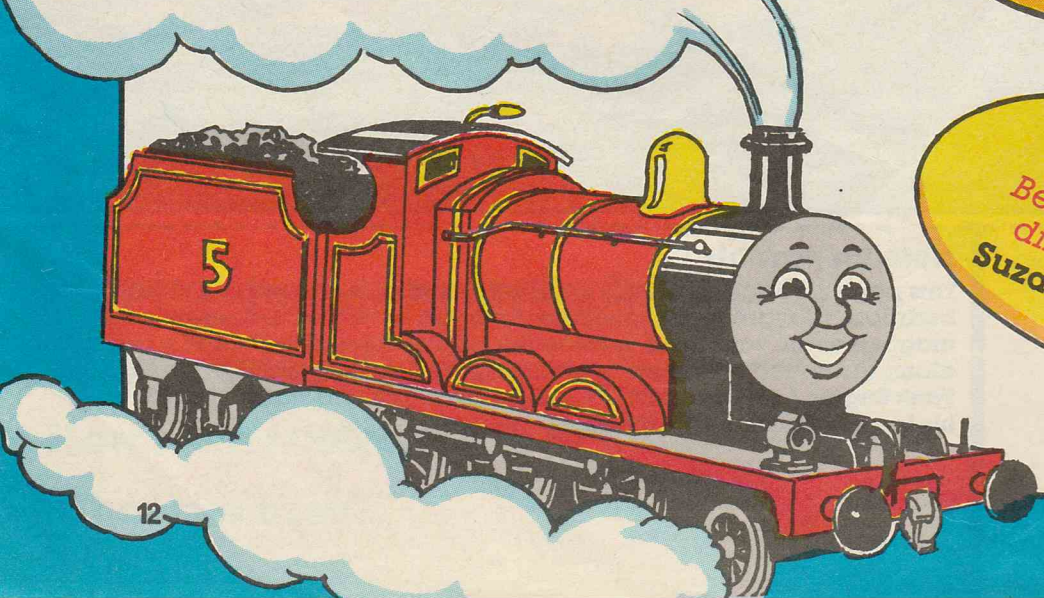
What's a frog's favourite drink?
Croak a Cola!
Keith, aged 3.

What do you get if you cross a bottle of medicine with a horse?
Cough stirrup!
Lorna, aged 5.

What nut has no shell?
A doughnut!
Kim, aged 4.

What's the difference between the Prince of Wales and a tennis ball?
One is heir to the throne and the other is thrown in the air!
Trevor.

Have you got a good joke for James's Joke Gallery? Why not send it in to him at the address on the letters page?



Why did the boy swallow 60p?
Because it was his dinner money!
Suzanne, aged 7.

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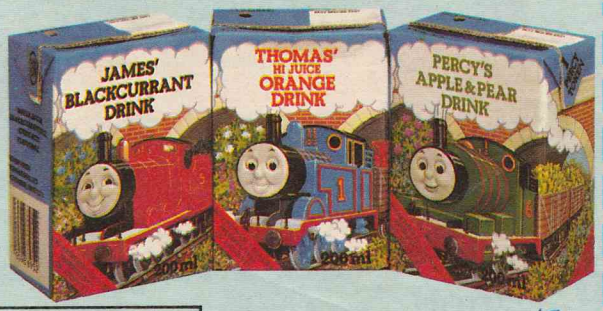

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Dear Newsagent,
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A read-aloud story!

Henry the Hero

It had been raining for a week on the Island of Sodor.

"If I go out today my pistons will rust," complained Henry from inside his warm engine shed.

"Don't be silly, Henry," said his driver sternly. "Remember the last time you wouldn't go out in the rain? You were bricked up inside a tunnel by the Fat Controller."

Henry remembered only too well. He decided to behave himself this time.

The rain fell harder. Henry collected his passengers to take them into town. People grumbled about the weather and accidently prodded each other with their umbrellas.

"No one is happy today," sighed Henry's fireman.

Least of all Henry. He wanted to finish his work and get back to his engine shed. "I'm cold and wet!" he grumbled.

Henry reached a bridge. He came to halt and whistled nervously. "Help! Help! The bridge is going to collapse! I can see it shaking."

rain

The bridge looked safe to Henry's driver. "Don't be silly, Henry," he scolded. "You'll frighten the passengers. You are only saying that so you can go back to the station out of the rain."

But Henry's wheels refused to turn. His driver became cross. "The Fat Controller will get a new train and send you to the scrap yard if you don't behave."

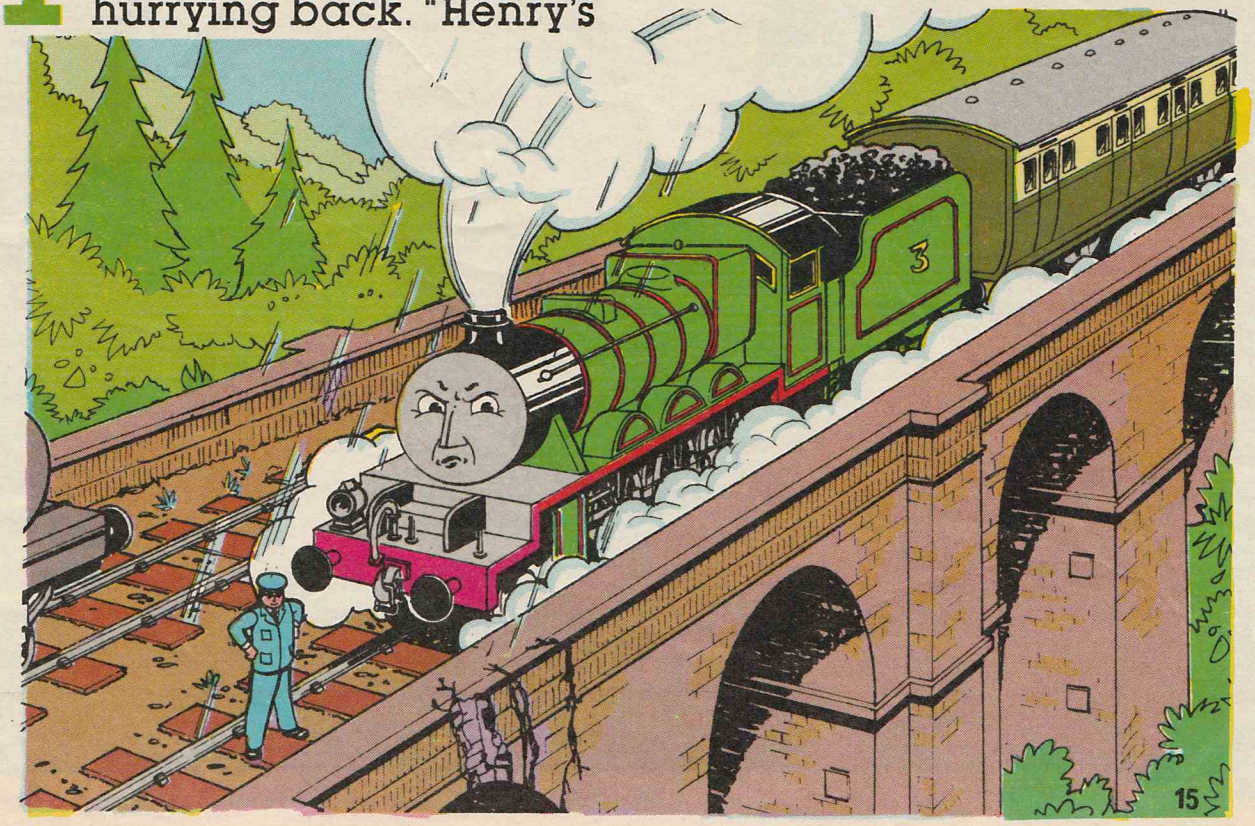
"The bridge is not safe," said Henry. "And I'm not going to cross it."

The guard went to have a look. He came hurrying back. "Henry's right. The rain has washed away one of the support columns. The rails are not straight, and the bridge might collapse if Henry crossed it."

The driver apologised to Henry. "You saved us from a nasty accident, Henry. You're a hero."

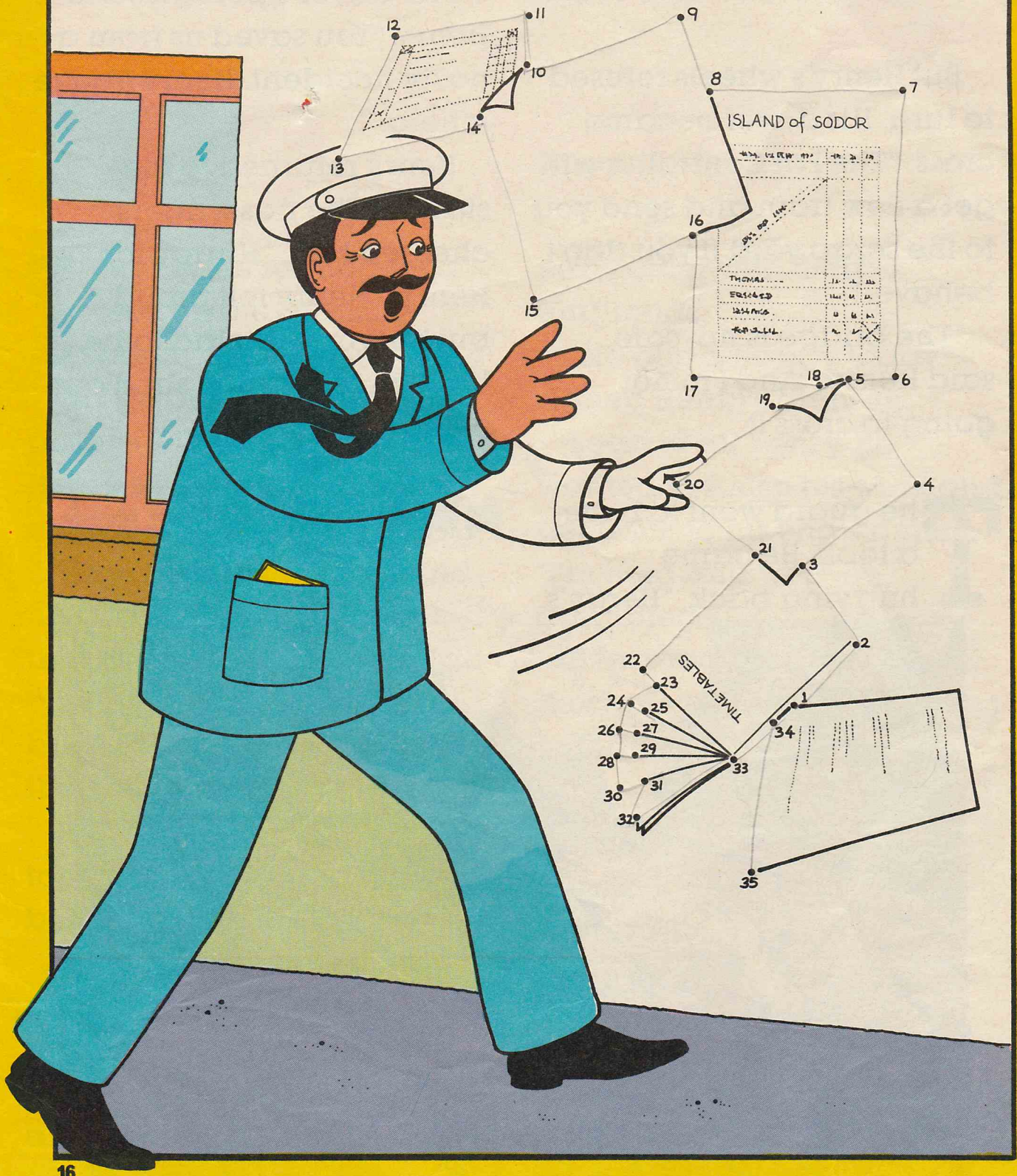
Henry returned to the station. The passengers cheered him. "Hurray for Henry!" Henry felt proud . . . but he was still glad to be back in his engine shed out of the rain.

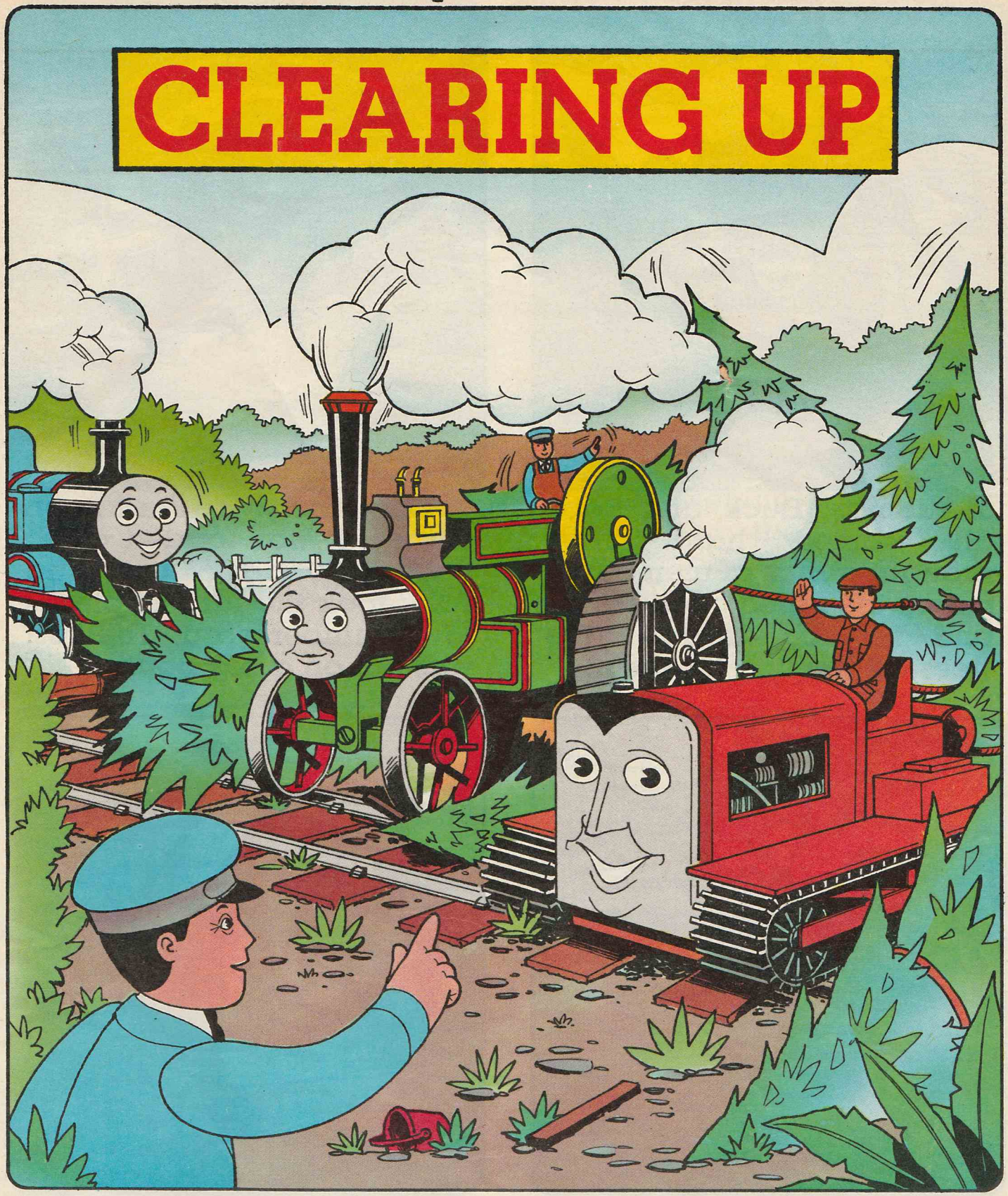
THE END



JOIN THE DOTS!

Oh dear! The wind is being a nuisance again! Join the dots to see what it has blown away!

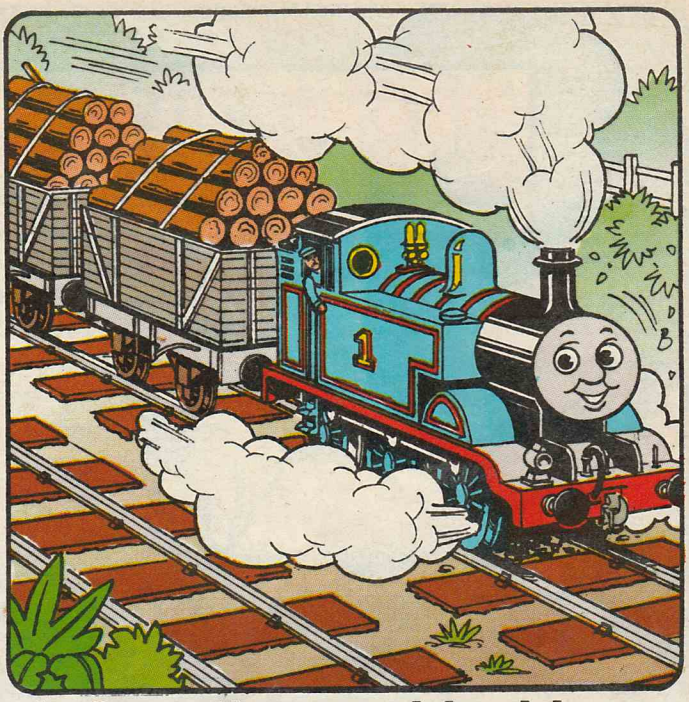




1. There had been a terrible hurricane on the Island of Sodor. Many trees had been blown down by the strong wind. There was a great deal of clearing up to be done.

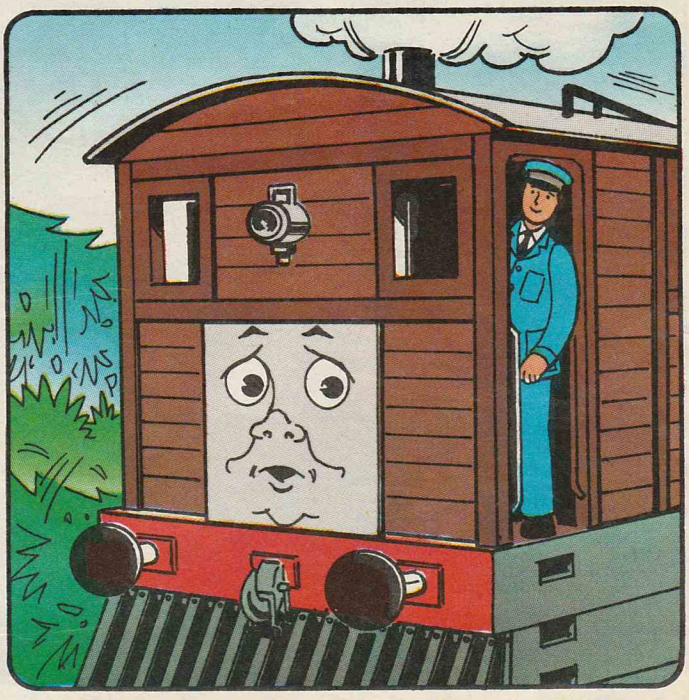
2. Terence the Tractor and Trevor the Traction Engine both came to help. The Fat Controller had to cancel all trains until the lines had been cleared of trees.

3. Thomas, Duck and Toby all worked hard. They brought gangs of men out to cut up the fallen trees. Trevor and Terence dragged the trees off the line for them.

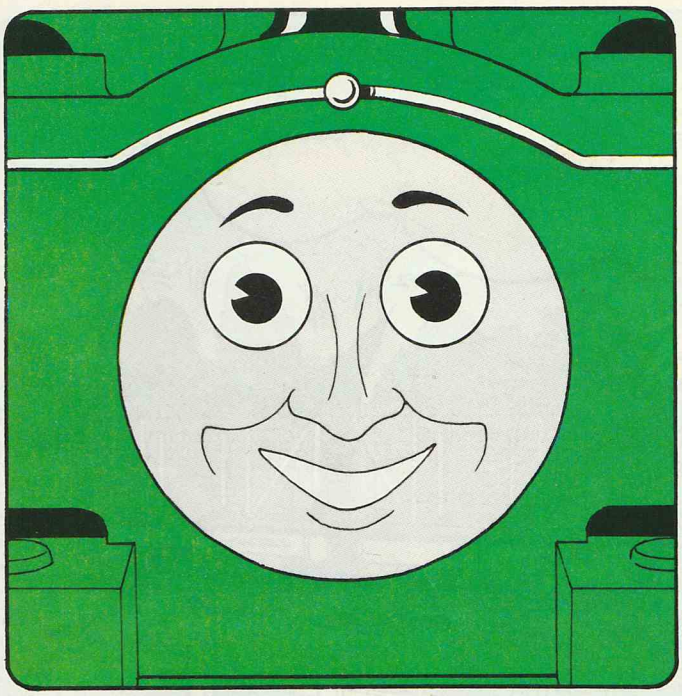


4. Once the wood had been cut up, it was loaded on to trucks. Thomas, Duck and Toby took the largest pieces to a lumber yard. The rest was put on a big bonfire.

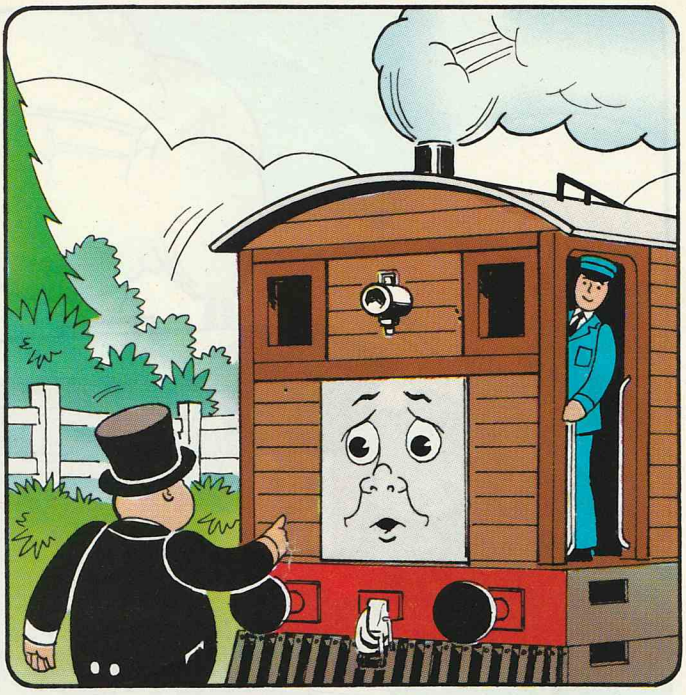
5. The engines all felt very sad to see such devastation. Toby felt especially sad. It took many years for trees to grow so tall and beautiful. It was a great loss.



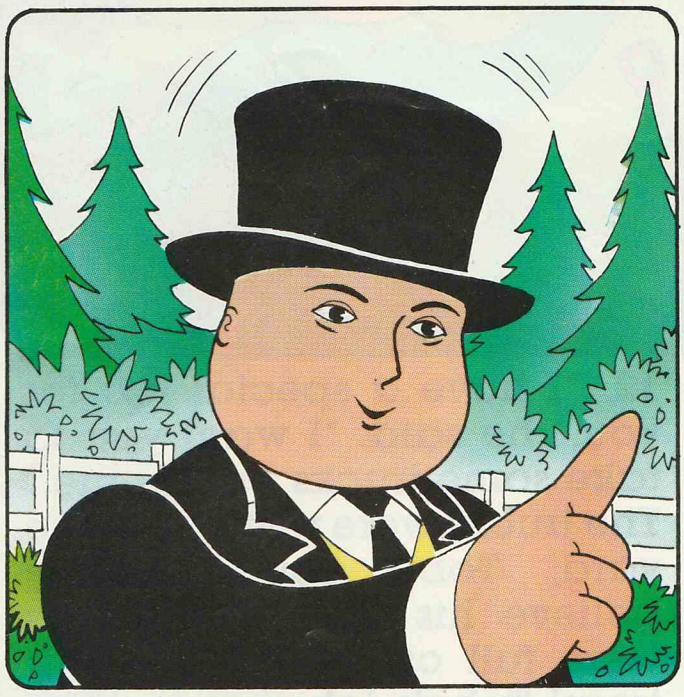
6. "Deary me." sighed Toby. "I wish there was something we could do to make things better again." "Yes," said Thomas. "But what? We can't fix fallen trees."



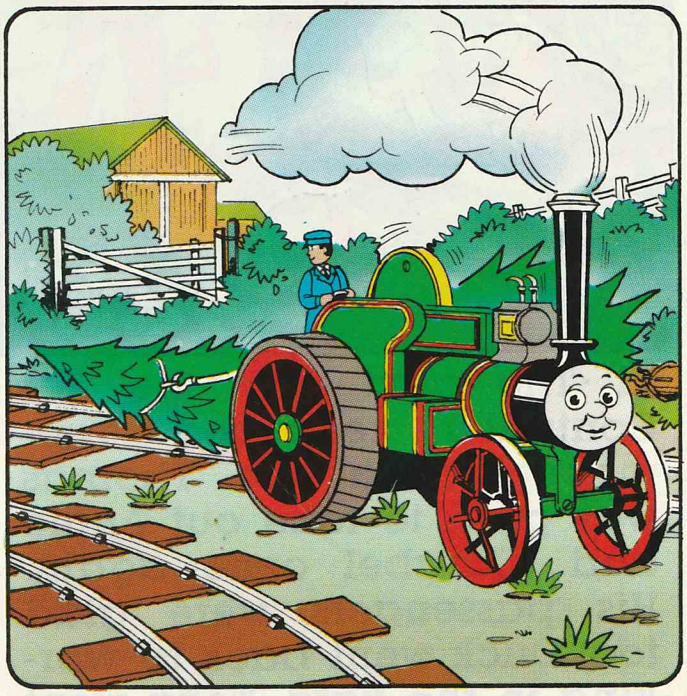
7. "Well," said Duck. "We will just have to think of something." "Yes," agreed Toby. "We'll just have to!" The three engines continued to work at clearing up.



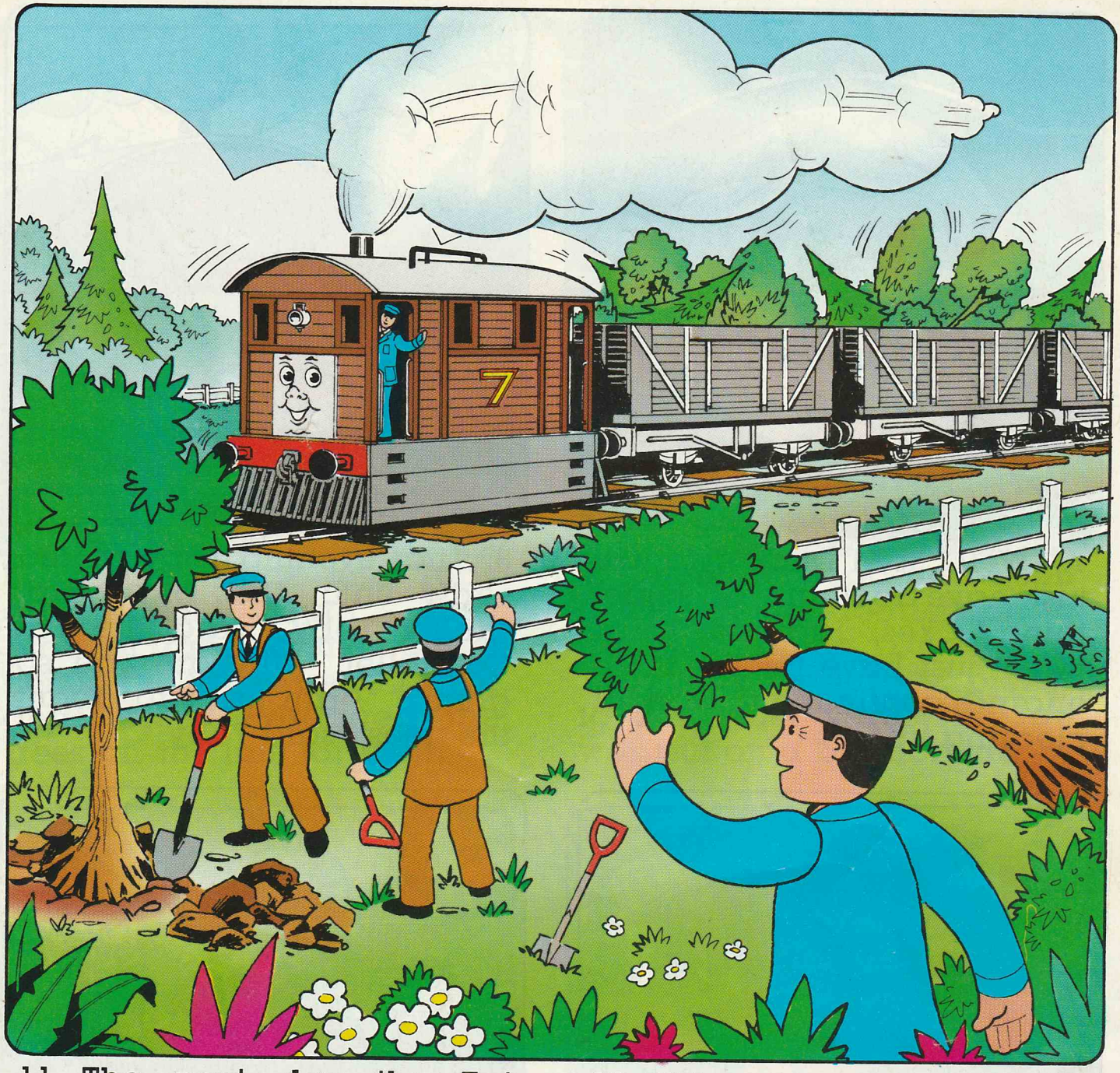
8. That evening Toby puffed sadly into the big yard. "Hullo, Toby," said the Fat Controller. "Why are you so glum?" "I am just sad about the trees," said Toby.



9. "I see," said the Fat Controller. "Well, don't you worry. We will sort something out." Soon the main line was clear and the Fat Controller opened it to trains again.



10. Toby, Duck and Thomas went to work clearing the branch lines. It was a lot of work, but with the help of Terence and Trevor these were soon clear as well.



11. The next day the Fat Controller reopened Thomas's branch line. Thomas was glad to take out Annie and Clarabel once again. His passengers were glad too! Duck went back to working in the yard. Toby went to collect Henrietta. "I suppose it's back to the quarry for us," sighed Toby. "Not today, Toby," said the Fat Controller.

12. "I have a special job for you," he said. "I want you to take some trucks out for me." The trucks were waiting in the yard. Toby could hardly believe his eyes. The trucks were full of splendid young trees! Toby's job was to take the men out replanting trees along the lines! "This is the nicest job I've ever had!" said Toby, happily.

In our next issue: Diesel's race!

THE END